Title changed to:
Nature Conservancy News

NATURE CONSERVATION NEWS

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A "WORK HORSE" PUBLICATION. Nature Conservation News is a continuation of the "Circular" series previously issued by the Nature Conservancy. It has no literary aspirations, but only hopes to bring news and helpful information to persons working for the cause of nature preservation. Let us have your comments and suggestions for improving it.

Volume 1 - Number 8

May 1951

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
1214 SIXTEENTH STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON 6, D.C.

THE NATIONAL SCENE

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE has a new director, Arthur E. Demaray. Former director Newton B. Drury resigned from the position on April 1. Mr. Demaray is slated to retire in a short time. Indications are that Conrad L. Wirth, now associate director, will then be given the post of director. Mr. Drury has accepted the position of chief of the California Division of Beaches and Parks. (Detailed information on Drury's resignation in National Parks Magazine, April 1951; more on the subject to appear in Spring issue of The Living Wilderness.)

DINOSAUR DAMS. Watch for bills to authorize the construction of dams in Dinosaur National Monument. Last year's bills died at close of 81st Cong.; not yet reintroduced. (Detailed info.: National Parks Mag., Oct. 1950 & The Living Wilderness, Autumn 1950, or write us for leaflet.)

"WEATHER CONTROL" bills are in the Congressional hopper. S.222 would establish a Weather Control Commission, S.798 would authorize S.C.S. and Forest Service to conduct research in "rainmaking", and H.J.Res.56 would establish a joint Congressional committee to study the situation.

Scientific opinion already exists that rainmaking activities may cause tremendous indirect changes in weather over large areas. Possible effects of such activities are beyond our comprehension at this time, and practically no one has even bothered to consider them. Changes in climate may result, and consequent changes in vegetation and natural conditions, to say nothing of the effect on our civilization and way of life. This whole matter deserves our careful and diligent study.

WATER POLICY. The President's Water Resources Policy Commission has completed its reports. They fill 3 large volumes: 1/"A Water Policy for the American People" ($3.25), 2/"Ten Rivers in America's Future" ($6.00), and 3/"Water Resources Law" ($2.25). Also a "Summary of Recommendations" ($0.15). All are available from the Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

Nature preservation was virtually ignored in the reports, and only lip service was given to some phases of "Recreation", "Fish and Wildlife", and other non-utilitarian values. (For opinions on the whole report see symposium in The Land, Spring 1951.)

GRASSLAND PRESERVATION has received a boost from the Natural Resources Council. A conference on the subject was held on Apr. 23 to discuss the Report on Grassland Monuments issued by a special committee of the Dept. of Agriculture. As a result of the meeting, a committee was formed to draft a proposed bill to provide for the establishment of representative grassland reserves. This might be in the form of a joint resolution of Congress calling on the Dept. of Agriculture or Dept. of the Interior to make a study of the problems, locate suitable areas, and determine their cost.

REGIONAL NOTES

FLORIDA: KEY DEER refuge bill has been reintroduced in Congress (H.R.2897) by Repr. Bill Lantaff of Florida. The bill is in the hands of the House Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries, Subcommittee on Conservation of Fisheries Wildlife, Frank W. Boykin of Alabama, chairman. The Key deer is nearly extinct and it is claimed only prompt establishment of a refuge can save it. The Boone and Crockett Club, of New York, is providing funds for a temporary guard for the area inhabited by the deer.

HAWAII: AXIS DEER INTRODUCTION fight continues. A bill in the Hawaii legislature would authorize appropriations for introducing the deer. At this moment it is apparently pigeonholed. Many naturalists have opposed the introduction because of the evident danger to native vegetation involved.

NEW JERSEY: ISLAND BEACH National Monument Committee, headed by Richard Pough of the American Museum of Natural History, continues its effort to save this 10-mile strip of near virgin beach from being subdivided for building lots. The committee must raise $2,500,000 to assure establishment of the national monument.

WISCONSIN: FLAMBEAU WILDERNESS. A fight is on to save this unique 1560-acre tract of virgin hardwood forest from being cut by the State Commissioner of Public Lands. This is the last remaining sizable area of its type. To save it, the Conservation Commission must buy it from the Public Lands Commission. Part of the necessary money is already set aside; the state legislature must put up $180,000 more.

WISCONSIN: STATE BOARD FOR PRESERVATION OF SCIENTIFIC AREAS is proposed in a bill now before the Wisconsin legislature. This bill is "pioneering legislation" that may be applicable to nature preservation problems in other states. Full text of the bill appears below:

STATE OF WISCONSIN No. 501, S. March 1, 1951. A BILL To create 23.27 of the statutes, relating to a state board for preservation of scientific areas.

23.27 STATE BOARD FOR PRESERVATION OF SCIENTIFIC AREAS. (1)There is created a state board for the preservation of scientific areas, hereinafter called the board, whose purpose shall be to formulate policies for the preservation, selection, acquisition and management of areas necessary for scientific research, the teaching of conservation and natural history, and for the preservation of rare or valuable plant and animal species and communities.

(2) The board shall consist of one representative of each of the following:

(a) The conservation commission, to be appointed by the commission.

(b) The university of Wisconsin, to be appointed by the board of regents.

(c) The state teachers colleges, to be appointed by the board of normal school regents.

(d) The department of public instruction, to be appointed by the superintendent.

(e) The Milwaukee public museum, to be appointed by the board of directors thereof.

(f) The private colleges of the state, to be appointed by the council of the Wisconsin academy of sciences, arts and letters, for a 2-year term.

(3) The representative of the conservation commission shall be the secretary and executive officer of the board, and the conservation department shall be its administrative agent. The executive officer shall call the first meeting of the board at the state capitol without delay, and the board shall select a chairman from the membership. Meetings may be called on request of any 2 members and may be held as often as necessary but not less than once a year. Four members of the board shall constitute a quorum.

(4)The members of the board shall receive no salary as such members. Members of the board representing state agencies shall be reimbursed their actual and necessary traveling and other expenses incurred in attendance upon meetings of the board or while in performance of their duties as such members by the agency which they represent. The secretary of the board shall be responsible for preparing and editing the minutes of the meeting of the board. The conservation department or any other state department mentioned in subsection (2) shall, if so requested by the board, provide stenographic and clerical services for the preparation of the minutes and reports of the board.

(5) It shall be the duty of the board and it shall have the power and authority to:

(a) Determine the acceptance or rejection of areas of special scientific interest that may be offered as a donation by individuals or organizations for preservation.

(b) Make recommendations to appropriate federal agencies or national scientific organizations of areas in the state that are considered worthy to be listed as scientific areas of national importance.

(c) Advise the conservation department and other agencies on matters pertaining to the acquisition, development, utilization and maintenance of scientific areas, including determinations as the extent of multiple use that may be allowed on approved scientific areas that are a part of a state park, state forest, public hunting ground or similar property of the commission.

(d) Prepare and publish an official state list of scientific areas available for research and the teaching of conservation and natural history, and recommend publication of studies made in connection with these areas.

(e) Co-operate with federal agencies, other states, counties, or organizations concerned with similar purposes.

(f) Take such other action as may be deemed advisable to facilitate the administration, development, maintenance or protection of the scientific area system or any part or parts thereof.

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NATURE PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS

INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE held its second General Assembly in Brussels, Belgium, from October 18 to 23, 1950. The Union's many activities all are of vital importance, but two of them are of particular interest to us at this time. One of these is the preparation of a report entitled "Inquiry on the Status of Nature Protection throughout the World in 1950". Publication date not yet announced. The other is the establishment of a "Survival Service" for assembling information on threatened and vanishing species of flora and fauna and assisting in their preservation.

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL has organized a Conservation Committee under its Division of Biology and Agriculture. Chairman is Dr. Paul Sears of Yale University. Other Nature Conservancy members on the committee include Dr. Stanley A. Cain and Dr. Herbert C. Hanson.

ILLINOIS NATURE CONSERVANCY held its first meeting March 31. It will operate as a division of the national organization, and also as a section of the Illinois State Academy of Science. Leader of the movement to organize the Illinois group was Dr. Hurst H. Shoemaker of the University of Illinois. Chairman of the new group is Dr. James M. Sanders, Chicago Teachers College, Chicago 21; Secretary-Treasurer is Miss Constance Nice, 5725 Harper Avenue, Chicago 37.

WISCONSIN CITIZENS NATURAL RESOURCES ASSOCIATION had its organizational meeting on December 16, 1950. Wallace B. Grange, Babcock, Wisconsin, is president, and Albert M. Fuller, Milwaukee Public Museum, is secretary of this new group.

CNRA, as it is called, is emphasizing citizens' responsibility and democratic action. It is publishing a "Legislative Series" which consists of a Legislative Analysis describing each conservation bill in the current Wisconsin legislative session, along with arguments for or against, and a Ballot on which members of CNRA vote on the various bills. Majority vote of the members determines the stand the organization will take on any particular bill.

OTHER NEW STATE ORGANIZATIONS of interest include the following:

Hawaii Conservation Council, formed July 1950. Dr. L. D. Baver, H.S.P.A. Experiment Station, Keeaumoku Street, Honolulu, Hawaii, is president.

Minnesota Natural History Society, formed November 1949. Dr. Clayton G. Rudd, 315 Medical Arts Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota, is president.

New Mexico Natural History Society, formed September 1950. Raymond J. Fleetwood, 342 North Sixth Street, Socorro, New Mexico, is secretary.

TAX EXEMPTION was granted the Nature Conservancy by ruling of the Bureau of Internal Revenue on November 29, 1950. As a result, members and benefactors of the Nature Conservancy may deduct dues and contributions in computing their income tax. Also, gifts of property and bequests, legacies, devises, or transfers are deductible. Rules governing these deductions are set forth in the Internal Revenue Code.

AFFILIATIONS. We are now participating in international nature preservation efforts through membership in the International Union for the Protection of Nature.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science has accepted the Nature Conservancy as an affiliated organization. This means that we will have two representatives on the Council of AAAS.

We have also completed a formal co-operative agreement with the National Parks Association.

CONGRESSIONAL CHARTER BILL for a "Nature Conservancy of the United States" has been temporarily postponed. No bill is pending now.

"NATURE SANCTUARIES IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA: A PRELIMINARY INVENTORY" has just been published as Number 35 of The Living Wilderness (publication date: May 1, 1951). We are indebted to Dr. Kendeigh's Committee on the Study of Plant and Animal Communities for production of the inventory, and to The Wilderness Society for its publication.

We have sent copies of the inventory in Wilderness Society envelopes to members of the Nature Conservancy and the Ecological Society of America. Additional copies are available for 50¢ each from Dr. S. Charles Kendeigh, Vivarium Building, Wright and Healey Streets, Champaign, Ill.

KIND WORDS DEPT.:

> We often think of the Lord's offer to save the wicked cities of the plain from destruction if just a handful of good people could be found. The handful wasn't found; so the cities became a wasteland of brackish marsh, bitumen, and salt. Can we find the handful which will save our land from becoming a wasteland? We honestly believe so; and we believe that organizations like The Nature Conservancy are logical nuclei for likeminded people in this effort.
>
> from: "An Editor's Notebook"—"Battle Against The Wasteland" Rockford (Ill) Morning Star March 29, 1951

THE DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS interested in nature preservation and conservation is growing rapidly. It has already proved useful in facilitating work of our Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions. If you have not sent in the names and addresses of local groups in your region, please do so immediately.

ADMINISTRATIVE DEVELOPMENTS, including purchase of an addressing machine and streamlining of procedures, will make possible a stepped up program from now on. We expect to issue Nature Conservation News at least quarterly, oftener if possible.

The Preservation Committee is now in the process of initiating activities in a number of states. More about that from time to time.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
1214 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
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The Nature Conservancy is an independent member-governed organization dedicated to saving America's heritage of wild nature. Its specific object is to preserve natural areas as "living museums" of the primeval wilderness. Such tracts are precious for their scientific, educational, and esthetic values. They also afford a home for the multitude of kinds of living things that would otherwise vanish from the earth, destroyed by our civilization.

The work of our organization began in 1917 under the direction of a committee of the Ecological Society of America. In 1946 the Ecologists Union was formed to take over these tasks. In 1950 its name was changed to the Nature Conservancy.

We, the members of the Nature Conservancy, invite you to join with us in this work. Membership is open to both individuals and organizations. Your contribution is an allowable income tax deduction.

The Nature Conservancy
1214 Sixteenth Street, N. W.
Washington 6, D. C.

Date.....

Please include me (our organization) as a member. Enclosed is $.....

☐ Individual ☐ Organization

Membership classes are as follows:
Regular $2; Sustaining $5;
Contributing $10; Supporting $25 or more;
Patrons $100 or more with future dues optional.

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WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Purpose of the Nature Conservancy is to carry on an action program of nature preservation. Our first task is to promote establishment of nature reserves. To do this will require local efforts in all parts of the country. Your participation in this work will result in future benefits far outweighing your efforts. Here is a general outline of the things you can do:

* * * HELP START LOCAL EFFORTS * * *

Your state should have an active nature preservation group of some kind. If one does not exist, help form a committee of the Nature Conservancy members in the state (we can send you their names) and get things going from there. If one or more suitable organizations already are available, help develop their nature preservation interests and activities.

* * * GET INFORMATION * * *

Your state group must find the areas that need saving. This will require systematic study of the state or region and its vegetation types. The inventory of nature sanctuaries will provide a starting point as it shows what areas are now preserved.

* * * SAVE AREAS * * *

In future issues of Nature Conservation News we will publish as much practical information as possible on methods and procedures for establishing nature reserves.

* * * HELP NATIONAL EFFORT * * *

Send us materials: photographs, clippings, literature about areas. We especially need photos: 35mm Kodachrome transparencies, and large glossy black and white prints for reproduction. Principal need is for views showing character of vegetation types, not close-ups or scenery. Include with photos information on place, date, photographer, description of subject, and limitations on publication or use if any.

Send us information: about areas, organizations, activities (both preservation and destruction).

Write articles for papers or magazines, get publicity.

Get financial support for our efforts.

Get other people to join with us.

These are just suggestions. They don't tell you how to do the job, and in many cases we don't know how. We will bring you more details as we go along and as our combined experience grows.

In the final analysis, the progress of the Nature Conservancy depends on its prestige. Prestige will come with accomplishment, and accomplishment depends on the effort each of us contributes. There is no limit to what we can do if we set our minds to it, and if we get others to work with us.